

# THE LANCASTER NEWS

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## Our Public Roads.

### "Citizen" Suggests a Plan as a Substitute for the Present Road Law.

Mr. Editor: I am glad to see this road question continually agitated in this county. We need better roads for several reasons which have been explained by other writers; but I think the greatest result obtained would be the increase in valuation of our farms. I notice along graded and macadamized roads in other counties that land near these roads are very valuable—so it would be with ours if we had good roads. "Road Worker" was striking at about the right thing when he said the common people are learning more and more daily and will be more stubborn and harder to control about this road working question. I think there ought to first be some legislation along this line. Something like this: to give the voters of the county, or in each township if they wish it that way, to vote for a road tax (to be collected with other taxes)—say one dollar or more per male from 21 to 45 years of age, and a small levy on personal and real property, and exempt all from road duty. We could then take this tax money and hire the roads worked by contract or otherwise and get more service in one day's work from the same hand than we obtain in three days under the present road system. With teams, road machinery and hired hands we could soon have better roads and it is getting time that we become worried with them and resolve as one people to have better roads at almost any cost. Let us take as examples Mecklenburg and Union counties. They say, "you people down there in Lancaster county have no roads; you are away behind the times." Traveling as I do—over their counties and ours, I find that they are about right. I said to a good man of our county not long ago that we need better roads, and he said: "I am opposed to taxing people to death and they won't stand it. You have a good road law if you will carry it out." I said, "This road we are standing on hasn't been worked this year and I am in favor of good roads while I am living." I hope the people will speak at once and with one voice that we will have better roads. Then it will be that we will become the banner county of the state.

Citizen.

P. S.—I heartily indorse Capt. Hunter's views on the Liquor Question, except the last clause concerning the physician's certificate. That might cause some of the boys to get a little sick and say something like a sick man might to a physician under certain circumstances, as sick men do sometimes—well, just as most sick men are liable to say.

C.

## Dispensary in Kershaw

### One to be Opened in Portion of Town which is in Kershaw County.

Kershaw, it seems, is to have a dispensary again. As is well known, a small part of the town lies in Kershaw county and the dispensary is to be located on the Kershaw side of the line. The state board of dispensary directors decided at a meeting Tuesday on the opening of the dispensary as stated. We are not familiar with conditions in Kershaw, but it appears from the following, taken from the Columbia correspondence of the News and Courier, that a dispensary is wanted in the town "to prevent the tiger business." The board granted the petition of Mayor Blakeney, of Kershaw, personally presented, to establish a dispensary on the Kershaw County side of that town to take the place of the dispensary voted out on the Lancaster side by the Lancaster County election under the Brice Act. Mayor Blakeney said it was necessary to have a dispensary in town to prevent the tiger business, which was increasing.

The board also decided, at the meeting referred to, to buy whiskey hereafter directly from government bonded warehouses, and to adopt the "merit system" in the matter of dispensers' salaries. The pay to be in proportion to the business done.

### A Tribute to William Johnson by One of his Own Race.

Mr. Editor: I wish to let the public generally know how much my race appreciates the kindness of the white people shown William Johnson, the colored citizen who died in the Dry Creek section last Tuesday, as published in The News of Wednesday. The white men of that community did everything in their power for Johnson during his last sickness, and were ever good and kind to him throughout his life. The conveyance that bore his corpse to the grave Wednesday belongs to a prominent white gentleman, Mr. James Cauthen, and was driven by Mr. Cauthen himself—an honor to a negro without precedent in this country. Many other white persons, as well as hundreds of colored people, notwithstanding the busy time on the farms, left their work and attended the funeral and burial of Johnson at Mt. Carmel, thereby attesting the esteem in which he was held by his neighbors regardless of color.

Now I want to say to my people that if they wish to enjoy the confidence and respect of the whites they must live as Johnson lived. He stood well with the white people because he was always polite and respectful.

## The Walker Case.

### Comment by an Esteemed Contemporary—"Drive the Blind Tigers out of Business."

From The State.

In endorsing the appeal from the Anti-Liquor league of Lancaster against the pardon of J. D. Walker of that county, recently convicted of the illicit sale of liquor, The Lancaster News well says: "The pardon of Mr. Walker now would have a bad effect in Lancaster county. \* \* \* Mr. Walker, as is well known, is a white man of intelligence and education, and if one of that class is not to be punished for the commission of so heinous an offense as illicit liquor selling, wherein is the justice in punishing obscure and ignorant violators of the law, whether they be white or black? The law is no respecter of persons, or, at least, it should not be, but if there is any discrimination at all it should be against the educated white man. And it may be that some idea of that kind was in the mind of the judge when he imposed sentence on Mr. Walker." With such a showing as this, the pardon of Walker would mean that the law is not for the man with influence; it would mean that the poor and inconsequential are to be punished, while the "respectable" are pardoned. There is no peg in this case on which the excuse for executive clemency can be hung. Let the law take its course.—Punish the violators of the dispensary law as well as of other laws; drive the blind tigers out of business.

### Commencement at Vanwyck.

Waxhaw Enterprise: The Van Wyck school, taught by Rev. R. E. Sharpe, will close with exercises next Monday night and Tuesday. On Monday night the exercises will consist of dialogues, recitations, declamations, etc. Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock the address will be delivered by Prof. Haad, of Chester. In the afternoon the presentation of a beautiful flag to the school by the J. O. U. A. M. will take place. The public has been extended a cordial invitation to attend all these exercises.

### Do you take The News?

honest and law abiding, attended strictly to his own business and made money by doing so. He was always kind and neighborly and would favor or befriend his white neighbors as quickly as he would members of his own family.

Yes, fellow colored citizens, let us all try to live as Johnson lived.

F. R. Massey.

Lancaster, S. C.

## The Graded School Closing.

### The Interesting Exercises in the Auditorium Thursday and Friday Nights—Elaborate Programmes Successfully Carried Out.

The leading attraction in Lancaster this week was the graded school commencement. The closing exercises were held Thursday and Friday nights in the auditorium, and were witnessed by immense crowds. Indeed, the spacious auditorium could not hold all who desired to get in, probably as many as two hundred persons failing to gain admission. Elaborate and highly interesting programmes were successfully carried out each night, the pupils acquitting themselves with marked credit.

Thursday night's programme was as follows:

Music.

Prayer.

Play, "Our Aunt from California."

Music.

Declamation: Victories of Peace.—R. F. Cunningham.

Essay: Joys and Sorrows of School Life.—Margaret Moore.

Recitation: Counting Eggs.—Leila Gregory.

Music.

Declamation: J. T. Graves on H. W. Grady.—Willie Johnson.

Essay: Evils of War.—Maude Moore.

Declamation: H. W. Grady on Faithfulness of Slaves.—Jno. D. Wylie.

Music.

Recitation: Kentucky Philosophy.—Kate McManus.

Declamation: Two Streams of History.—Kelly Cunningham.

Essay: Foreign Immigration.—Corrine Jones.

Music.

Debate: Resolved, That gambling is a worse form of evil than intemperance.

Affirmative—James Beaty, Leroy Dunn.

Negative—Perrine Stover, Margaret Williamson.

Music.

The debate was won by the boys, the judges, Rev. R. E. Turnipseed, Mr. W. P. Bennett and Mr. J. W. Debus, deciding in favor of the affirmative.

The programme last night was:

Prayer.

Music.

May Pole Drill.

Music.

CANTATA—HIS FORTUNE

Scene I. Jeannot, the faithful lover of a Gypsy, has formed an attachment for Jeannette, and is on the eve of departure for the battlefield. Jeannette sings, "You are Going far Away, Jeannot." Jeannot sings, "Cheer Up, My Own Jeannette." Old Gypsy sings to her, "The Gypsy's Warning."

## Camden Dispensary

### Undergoing Investigation—Temporary Dispenser Appointed.

Special to The State.

Camden, May 17.—At 7.50 o'clock this afternoon the county board of control had not completed the investigation which it is making of the affairs of the Camden dispensary. The institution has been closed all day and Inspector Nichols and the board have been hard at work. Mr. H. E. Truesdale, clerk of the board, stated this afternoon that he would give out a statement as soon as they had concluded their examination, but that he could not do so at this time. Mr. H. L. Watkins has been appointed temporary dispenser with Mr. G. E. Bateman, clerk. Mr. Watkins is a successful merchant and a prominent business man and his appointment will no doubt give entire satisfaction to the people of the town and county.

Mr. Bateman, the clerk, has held position under Dispenser Hough and is entirely satisfactory. Mr. Hough was asked today if he cared to make a statement, but declined to do so at this time. He says that he will probably institute a separate investigation on his own behalf, at which time the full facts of his case will come out.

The General Conference of the Methodist church, now in session in Birmingham, elected three new bishops day before yesterday, Dr. John J. Tigert, secretary of the conference; Dr. Seth Ward, of Texas, and Dr. James Atkins, of North Carolina. Dr. John C. Kilgo received 116 votes for bishop, on the 5th ballot, lacking 21 of the number necessary to elect.

—If "Many Friends" will send the required fee—five dollars—the announcement received at this office by mail yesterday will be promptly published in The News.

Scene II. "Castanet and Gypsy Guitar," sung by Gypsies. Soldiers' fortunes told by Gypsy.

Scene III. In Camp. Soldier is bribed to tell Jeannot that Jeannette is dead. Soldiers sing, "Tenting Tonight."

Scene IV. Patriot meets a courier, who tells him that Jeannot, thinking Jeannette is dead, becomes desperate, rushes into danger and is wounded. Jeannot, in his delirium, thinks he is meeting Jeannette in heaven.

Scene V. Soldier's return. All sing, "Vive l'Amour."

Music.

Annual Address—Hon. Samuel E. McFadden, Chester, S. C.

We hope to be able to give in our next issue a synopsis of Mr. McFadden's excellent address.